

37 CFR 1.116 Amendment
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of **Michael A. Epstein**
Serial No.: **08/994,878**
Filed: **12/19/97**
Title: **ADMINISTRATION AND UTILIZATION OF PRIVATE KEYS IN A
NETWORKED ENVIRONMENT**

Atty. Docket No.: **PHA 23-313**
Group Art Unit: **2131**
Examiner: **Hosuk Song**

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box AF
Washington, D.C. 20231

Second Amendment/Reply After Final Office Action

Sir:

Enclosed is a reply in the above-identified application in response to the final
Office Action dated 26 September 2002.

Please amend the claims as follows. Attached is a marked-up copy of the claims,
showing the changes made.

5. A method for obtaining and using a private key at user equipment via a network, said
method comprising:

- transmitting from the user equipment an ID of a user;
- receiving a private key of the user encrypted with a user identifying key
associated with the user; and
- decrypting the encrypted private key using a user identifying key determined from
interaction with the user at the user equipment;
- using the decrypted private key; and
- destroying or avoiding making any and all non-volatile records of the private key
at the location of the user.